Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation

Annual Report 2000

From our

Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends of The Arboretum,

I hope you will read this report with interest.

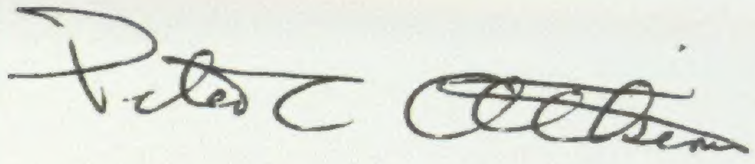
The last year of the 20th Century was a bright one for The Arboretum. We can all be proud of the many notable accomplishments and successes mentioned in this Annual Report.

Our growing staff and our many volunteers have worked long and hard. I congratulate each and every one of them for a job well done.

I also thank the County and the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation for their invaluable support and guidance.

We all look forward to another exciting year working together to produce programs and exhibits. We welcome you to our ever-developing, ever-improving Arboretum.

Sincerely,



Peter C. Atkins
Chief Executive Officer

The Year's Highlights at a Glance

- The new Sunset Magazine Demonstration Gardens, completed in December 1999, are excellent venues for events and are popular with the public.
- In March, family and friends of Grace Kallam gathered to celebrate the 10th Year Anniversary of The Grace Kallam Perennial Garden. This garden is The Arboretum's first endowed garden, given in memory of Grace by her husband, F.L. Kallam.
- The Baldwin Bonanza Festival of Plants, held the first weekend in May, was the most successful ever. For the first time, the festival included a significant educational component and handsome vignette gardens.
- At a retreat in May, staff, volunteers, Foundation trustees and County administrators reviewed the projects identified in an aggressive, new Arboretum-wide Five-year Plan and attached the highest priority to:
    - The Ethnobotanical Center
    - The Children's Discovery Center
    - An improved arrival experience
- In June, the Foundation Trustees approved and began to implement The Plan (approval by the County Board of Supervisors is pending). The Plan - which states that The Arboretum's mission is education - brings education to the forefront and envisions substantial investment in infrastructure, extensive renovation of existing facilities and gardens, innovation in all areas, and renewed efforts to reach out to the entire Southern California community and beyond.
- We increased our classes from 64 to over 100, including our first classes taught in Spanish.
- With a new emphasis on plants (many from our greenhouses) and on plant and garden-oriented books coordinated with our classes, Gift Shop sales are increasing notably.
- With County funding made available in June, we are in the process of filling eight positions, including that of Superintendent.

The Year's Highlights at a Glance

(continued)

- Voice mail was installed, workstations were computerized and networked.
- A unique collection of Japanese iris was planted at the west end of the central Bauer Pool. In May, we held our first Japanese Iris Festival, with music, dance and poetry to highlight the event.
- Major renovation of the Herb Garden commenced.
- A number of important artifacts from Anoakia, the former Arcadia residence of Lucky Baldwin's daughter were received.
- The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust awarded a research grant to study wide spread root disease.
- *Untitled Wicket* and *Blue Runner* - two sculptures on long-term loan from nationally acclaimed artist, Bret Price - now enhance the garden.
- A grant was received from Wells Fargo to bring children from disadvantaged inner city areas to view David Rogers' Big Bugs sculptures. The exhibit opens late summer and will be in the garden through the autumn.
- In June, we sent a delegation to Asheville, North Carolina to attend the World Botanic Garden Congress sponsored by the American Association of Botanic Gardens & Arboreta, Botanic Garden Conservation International and the Center for Plant Conservation.
- In response to an invitation received in June, we applied for a major four-year grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's 2001 Pre-college Science Education Initiative. This grant would support a newly developed and highly innovative ethnobotanical educational program.
- Planning was initiated to jointly host the symposium - Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies - sponsored by Pacific Horticulture, Strybing Arboretum Society and The Arboretum. This two-day event, to be held for the first time in Southern California, will strongly advance the cause of Mediterranean gardening.

From the Director of the County Department of Parks & Recreation

Dear and Valued Friends,

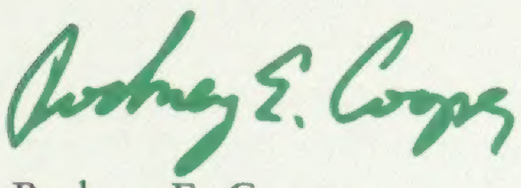
As we enter the new millennium, this is a most appropriate time to re-examine operations at The Arboretum and evaluate its future growth.

In reviewing all that has occurred this past year at The Arboretum, it is most pleasing to observe the many new beginnings that have taken place or are currently in the works.

The increased emphasis on education and public outreach of our botanical resources is a positive approach that should create a heightened awareness and usage of the facility. Please be assured that the Department of Parks and Recreation fully supports The Arboretum as it moves forward in these new endeavors.

As we work together to achieve these goals, the joint efforts being made both by the Department and the Foundation will truly contribute towards The Arboretum being recognized as a world-class facility.

Sincerely,



Rodney E. Cooper
Director

From the Foundation's Presidents

Dear Friends,

You have probably noticed the Foundation's new name - Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation - approved by the Foundation Trustees in September, to more closely identify the Foundation with The Arboretum. The name will be formally changed as soon as membership approval is obtained. In the meantime, the Foundation has registered the new name as a 'dba'.

In addition to the many positive things mentioned elsewhere in this report, we want you to know that we have also:

- Authorized increased staff for membership and special events.
- Authorized the hiring of a grant writer and a development officer, to increase our fundraising ability and our ability to support expanding programs at The Arboretum.
- Retained Custom Marketing Services to increase our effectiveness in marketing and promoting The Arboretum to wider, more diverse audiences.

To promote the idea that we are all working for the benefit of The Arboretum and to foster an Arboretum-wide approach, we have taken the following action:

- We have converted memberships from membership in the Foundation to membership in The Arboretum.
- The Newsletter is now an Arboretum newsletter, not a Foundation newsletter.
- Our Annual Appeal is now an appeal for support for The Arboretum itself.
- This report is an annual report for the Foundation (required by law) and for The Arboretum as a whole.

We are happy to note that our working relationship with the County continues to be positive and productive.

We see that The Arboretum is making solid progress toward its goal of being a truly world-class Arboretum for Southern California. We are happy to do what we can to support and guide that progress.

We thank Peter for his vision, enthusiasm and leadership, and we thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Donivee Nash
President
Year ending June 30th, 2000

George A. Brumder
President
Year beginning July 1st, 2000

The Baldwin Bonanza Festival of Plants

Once again The Arboretum community came together to present a wonderfully successful preview party and weekend plant sale. With our enthusiastic and committed staff, our incredible, dedicated group of Los Vols, many capable community volunteers and wonderful plant materials (many from our own greenhouses), the event enhanced a 30-year tradition with increased attendance, eager shoppers, willing participants and record funds raised!

The grounds were spectacularly beautiful. This year we introduced two new features, both warmly welcomed by attendees: educational speakers in the plant sale areas and imaginative garden vignettes created by area landscape designers, garden centers, plant societies and garden clubs.

The great success of this year's event strengthens our confidence that over time the Baldwin Bonanza will evolve into something even more wonderful - a truly world-class garden show for Southern California.

Many thanks to the community for its wonderful and continuing support - to our corporate sponsors and individual patrons, the many fine restaurants who donated time and marvelous food, and the many suppliers of interesting, well-grown plants.

Marcia B. Bent
Chair, Baldwin Bonanza 2000

Los Voluntarios
The Arboretum Volunteers

Much credit for The Arboretum's success goes to its premier volunteer group, Los Voluntarios or, simply, Los Vols. With its own board of directors and officers, and with its own training program for its members, Los Vols has for years been a backbone of The Arboretum. In 1999 alone, approximately 300 Vols gave The Arboretum 30,000 hours of volunteer time, staffing the Gift Shop and the Plant Information Hotline, providing field leaders for visiting school groups, leading adult tours, assisting with plant propagation, maintaining the Garden for All Seasons, working in the Historic Section, helping with the annual Baldwin Bonanza Festival of Plants, and performing a variety of other important tasks.

Financial Matters

The Arboretum is supported financially by both the County and the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation. The County does not separately report numbers for The Arboretum, but estimates that it contributed approximately $1.9 million to The Arboretum's operations in the year ending June 30th. In the same year the Foundation contributed approximately $1.1 million, making The Arboretum-wide operating budget for the year approximately $3.0 million. The Arboretum-wide operating budget for the current year is expected to be approximately $3.8 million, with approximately $1.8 million of that being provided by the Foundation.

For your information, we have included summaries of the Foundation's balance sheet and operating statement for the year:

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2000

Assets		
Cash	$	68,424
Investments, at fair value		4,326,540
Other assets		319,745
Total Assets		4,714,709
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities	$	50,798
Unrestricted		3,187,434
Temporarily restricted		1,264,756
Permanently restricted		211,721
Total net assets		4,663,911
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	$	4,714,709

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended June 30, 2000

Changes in unrestricted Net Assets		
Revenue		
Support and revenue	$	984,995
Net assets released from restrictions		34,750
Total revenue		1,019,745
Expenses		
Program services		771,538
Support services		301,202
Total expenses		1,072,740
Decrease in Unrestricted net assets		(52,995)
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets		26,000
Decrease in Net Assets		(26,995)
Net Assets at beginning of year		4,690,906
Net Assets at end of year	$	4,663,911

Our Patrons & Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge and thank these generous individuals and organizations, whose support during the year ending June 30th has enabled us to expand our programs and enhance our collections.

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